

## **MASTER PLAN ISSUES**

The Board of Regents' Admissions Criteria Framework, part of the Regents' Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education: 2001, establishes minimum admissions criteria for all public postsecondary colleges and universities, beginning in Fall 2005\*. The admissions criteria presented in the Master Plan and this document represent a base. Individual campus administration and faculty, in conjunction with their respective management boards, are encouraged to assess whether it is appropriate to exceed these base criteria to execute the institution's role, scope, and mission.

The purpose of this document is to provide:

- I. Definitions of certain elements of the already approved minimum admissions criteria for first-time freshman students.**
- II. Minimum admissions criteria for students in categories not defined in the Master Plan.**

Over the past four months, Regents' staff, the Council of Enrollment Management Officers, and the Council of Chief Academic Officers have collaborated on this effort to more clearly define elements in the Regents' Admissions Criteria Framework. In addition, minimum admission criteria for specific categories of students (e.g., transfer, out-of-state, international, adults, etc.) were developed. This work was undertaken in an effort to assist campuses in planning for implementation of the admissions criteria in Fall 2005. The Board of Regents is committed to annually assess the impact of these criteria on student access and success.

Note: All quoted statements, unless otherwise noted, are from the Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education: 2001.

\*All admissions criteria are effective beginning in Fall 2005, except for Southern University (effective Spring 2006), LSU-A (effective Fall 2007) and Grambling and SUNO (effective Fall 2010).

**September 25, 2002 – Approved by Board of Regents**

**June 3, 2003 – Revised (Sections I. B. and II. C.)**

**March 25, 2004 – Revised (Section II. E. 4.)**

**October 28, 2004 – Revised (Page 1 and Section II. A.)**

**February 23, 2006 – Revised (Page 1, Sections I.A., I.E., II., II.A., II.B. and II.C.)**

**March 22, 2007 – Revised (Page 6&7, Section II. B.)**

**I. Define certain elements of the already approved minimum admissions criteria for first-time freshmen students.**

- A. "Completion of the Regents' high school core curriculum (currently TOPS core curriculum)..."

Definition of "Regents' high school core curriculum":

16½ units of specific high school courses currently defined as the TOPS core curriculum.

Effective with the 2008 high school graduating class, the Regents' high school core curriculum will be defined as the 17½ units of specific high school courses defined as the TOPS core curriculum.

Individual courses may be waived for students with documented disabilities that prevent them from completing required courses. Certification of documentation must be provided by the high school and appropriately reported (1) by the Department of Education for Louisiana state approved high schools or (2) by the high school for not state approved or out-of-state high schools.

Verification of completion of the core curriculum shall be determined (1) by the Department of Education for Louisiana state approved high schools or (2) by the admitting institution for not state approved or out of state high schools, by evaluating the high school transcript, allowing for appropriate course substitution to determine an equivalent core. For the Civics/Free Enterprise category, courses currently used to satisfy the American History and World Geography, World History, or Western Civilization categories may be substituted.

- B. "... combined with one of the following requirements..."

Students must have completed the core curriculum AND ONE of the following:

"High school grade point average (GPA)..."

Definition of "high school grade point average":

Cumulative grade point average (on a 4.00 scale) on all high school courses attempted as reported (1) by the Department of Education for Louisiana state approved high schools or (2) by the high school for the not state approved or out-of-state high schools.

"OR An ACT composite score ... (SAT...)..."

Definition of "composite score":

A composite test score (ACT or SAT) from a single test.

"OR A certain rank in the high school graduating class ..."

Definition of "rank":

Students' rank in the high school graduating class as reported (1) by the Department of Education for Louisiana state approved high schools or (2) by the high school for the not state approved or out-of-state high schools.

Minimum High School Graduation Rank:

| Institution  | Rank    |
|--|---------|
| LSU  | Top 10% |
| LA Tech, ULL, UNO  | Top 25% |
| Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO, ULM | Top 50% |

- C. "Students with less than a 2.0 GPA will not be admitted."

Definition of "will not be admitted":

Students with less than a 2.0 cumulative high school GPA will not be admitted to LSU, LA Tech, ULL or UNO except under the admissions exception category.

Students with less than a 2.0 cumulative high school GPA may be admitted to Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO and ULM.

- D. "Students requiring ..any .. more than one developmental (remedial) course will not be eligible for immediate admission."

Definition of "one developmental (remedial) course":

One course, not to exceed 4 credit hours, in one academic subject that generates institutional credit, but not degree credit, and is designed to prepare the student for college-level instruction. Students who require any developmental course at LSU or more than one developmental course at any other 4-year institution may be immediately admitted under the admission exceptions category.

Definition of "immediate admission":

Students meeting all minimum admission criteria are eligible for immediate admission. Students meeting all minimum admission criteria, except for the allowable number of developmental courses, are not eligible for immediate admission (except under the exceptions category). At their discretion, institutions may develop high school or summer bridge programs that would allow students to enroll in developmental courses to satisfy this criterion. Upon successful completion of the required developmental courses, these students would then be eligible for admission without being counted as an exception.

#### E. Admissions Exception Category

Effective with the 2006 Summer entering class, each institution shall have the opportunity to admit, by exception, students who do not meet the minimum admissions criteria. The number of students admitted by exception shall be limited to the following percentage of the entering class.

| <b>Institution</b>   | <b>% Exceptions</b> |
|--|---------------------|
| LSU  | 5%                  |
| LA Tech, ULL, UNO  | 7%                  |
| Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO, ULM | 10%                 |

Definition of “entering class”:

First-time, freshman students as defined in the Board of Regents’ Statewide Student Profile System (<http://www.regents.state.la.us/Reports/datapub.htm>).

The freshman entering class for the fall term/semester will be defined as those entering freshmen who enroll in the fall, including those enrolled in the fall that enrolled for the first time at the same institution in the prior summer term. The number of students in the entering class will be determined using SSPS end of term data.

## II. Minimum admissions criteria for students in categories not defined in the Master Plan.

### A. Transfer Students:

#### Definition of a transfer student:

A transfer student as defined in the Board of Regents' Statewide Student Profile System (<http://www.regents.state.la.us/Reports/datapub.htm>).

Students enrolling in a summer term for the specific purpose of satisfying the developmental course requirement may be considered for admission for the following fall semester/term as a freshman and are not required to meet the transfer admission requirements.

Students (in-state and out-of-state) desiring to transfer to public, 4-year institutions must either have earned a transferable Associate Degree or higher from an accredited institution or meet the following minimum admissions criteria:

| <b>Institution</b>   | <b>Minimum College Level Hours Earned (non-developmental)</b> | <b>Minimum GPA on College Level Courses (non-developmental)</b> |
|--|---|---|
| LSU  | 24  | 2.50  |
| LA Tech, ULL, UNO  | 18  | 2.25  |
| Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO, ULM | 12  | 2.0   |

Additional criteria for those transfer students who have not earned the Associate Degree or higher from an accredited institution:

1. Students must be eligible to return to the institution from which they are transferring.
2. Students desiring to transfer with the minimum GPA on college level courses, but less than the minimum college level hours earned, must also meet the freshmen admissions criteria in order to be admitted as transfer students.
3. Students desiring admission as transfer students and in need of any developmental course work will not be eligible for transfer to LSU, LA Tech, ULL, and UNO.
4. Students desiring admission as transfer students and in need of more than one developmental course will not be eligible for transfer to Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO, and ULM.

Effective with the 2006 Summer entering class, each institution shall have the opportunity to admit, by exception, students who do not meet the minimum admission criteria. The number of students admitted by exception shall be limited to the following percentage of the entering transfer class.

| <b>Institution</b>   | <b>% Exceptions</b> |
|--|---------------------|
| LSU  | 5%                  |
| LA Tech, ULL, UNO  | 7%                  |
| Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO, ULM | 10%                 |

The number of students in the entering transfer class will be determined using SSPS end of term data.

**B. First-time Freshman Students Graduating from Out-of-State High Schools or Home-School Programs:**

Freshman students, who graduate from out-of-state high schools or are home-schooled, must meet one of the following minimum admissions criteria. Those freshman students who do not may be admitted under the admission exceptions category.

| <b>Institution</b>   | <b>Criteria #1</b>       | <b>Criteria #2</b>  | <b>Criteria #3</b>  |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| LSU  | Current minimum criteria | ACT $\geq$ 25 <u>and</u><br>GPA $\geq$ 3.0 <u>and</u><br>No developmental coursework required           | ACT $\geq$ 28<br><u>and</u><br>No developmental coursework required           |
| LA Tech, ULL, UNO  | Current minimum criteria | ACT $\geq$ 23 <u>and</u><br>GPA $\geq$ 2.5 <u>and</u><br>No more than one developmental course required | ACT $\geq$ 26<br><u>and</u><br>No more than one developmental course required |
| Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO, ULM | Current minimum criteria | ACT $\geq$ 20 <u>and</u><br>GPA $\geq$ 2.0 <u>and</u><br>No more than one developmental course required | ACT $\geq$ 23<br><u>and</u><br>No more than one developmental course required |

C. International Students:

| <b>Institution</b>   | <b>Minimum TOEFL*</b>                            |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| LSU  | 550 paper, 213 computer,<br>or 79 internet-based |
|  |  |
| LA Tech, ULL, UNO  | 525 paper, 195 computer,<br>or 71 internet-based |
|  |  |
| Grambling, LSU-A, LSU-S, McNeese, Nicholls<br>Northwestern, SLU, SU, SUNO, ULM | 500 paper, 173 computer,<br>or 61 internet-based |

\*International students for whom English is a second language are required to demonstrate English proficiency by submitting the minimum required TOEFL score or providing other documentation deemed acceptable by the institution to which the student is seeking admission.

Freshman international students must have completed a recognized secondary program comparable to U.S. high school graduation, and have academic records comparable to those required to meet the freshman admission criteria. Admission decisions for freshman international students must be made in accordance with recommendations in nationally recognized publications. Students should have at least completed a program of study that would recommend them for admission to a university in their country.

Transfer international students must have completed a recognized secondary program and meet transfer admission criteria.

International students who do not meet the required admission criteria may be admitted under the respective admissions exceptions category.

D. Adult Students:

1. Adults aged 25 and over:
  - i. Who are defined as entering freshmen, are not required to meet the minimum admissions criteria for first-time freshmen.
  - ii. Who are defined as entering transfer students, are required to meet the minimum admissions criteria for transfer students. Such students who do not may be admitted under the transfer admissions exception category.
2. Adults aged 21 – 24:
  - i. Who are defined as entering freshmen, are required to meet the minimum admissions criteria. Such students who do not may be admitted under the one of the following categories:
    - a. Admissions exception.

- b. Non-matriculating. Students admitted under this category may change their status from non-matriculating to matriculating by meeting the minimum transfer admission criteria.
- c. Matriculating, part-time. Students admitted under this category may enroll for no more than 3 hours in the summer or 6 hours in the fall or spring semesters. Students admitted under this category may be allowed to enroll in additional hours by meeting the minimum transfer admission criteria.
- ii. Who are defined as entering transfer students, are required to meet the minimum admissions criteria for transfer students. Such students who do not may be admitted under the transfer admissions exception category.

E. Categories of Admission That Fall Outside the Master Plan Admissions Criteria Framework:

- 1. Students defined as re-entry.
- 2. Students defined as Senior citizens (as defined by the state of Louisiana).
- 3. Students defined as non-matriculating, non-degree-seeking in special programs as defined by the institutions. Such programs may include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Dual or concurrent enrollment programs for high school students.
  - ii. Programs for visiting students from other institutions who desire to enroll for a limited time period and pursue course work for the purpose of transferring the course work back to their home institution from which they intend to earn their degree.
  - iii. Inter-agency or inter-institutional programs such as Academic Programs Abroad, Servicemembers Opportunity College, etc.
- 4. Students who have been admitted to a university prior to Fall 2005 and have subsequently been deployed for national security activities prior to their enrollment, may, upon approval by the university, have their admission deferred, and are not required to meet the respective minimum admission criteria for a freshman or transfer student for the 2005 entering class.